

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael E. Luepke, DOB: 09/24/73, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, was sentenced Tuesday by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 240 months in prison, followed by a five-year term of supervised release, for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Luepke previously pleaded guilty to the charge on June 15, 2006.

The investigation revealed that Luepke obtained methamphetamine from sources in Minnesota and distributed it to users and other distributors in the Rice Lake area. Luepke's sentence was increased because he possessed a firearm in connection with his drug activities, obstructed the investigation by threatening a potential witness against him, and damaged the door of the van transporting him to Madison after his arrest.

The charge against Luepke was the result of an investigation conducted by the Barron-Rusk Drug Enforcement Group. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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